

of the House of Representatives for their wonderful 1998 season. I would also like to remind the Speaker that Midnight Madness and the start of the 1999 NCAA basketball season is only 198 days away.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM W. SUTTON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise here before you today and acknowledge the retirement of one of Mississippi's greatest college administrators. Dr. William Sutton has announced his retirement as President of Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi. Dr. Sutton has held his position for nearly a decade. Since assuming the presidency, Dr. Sutton has overseen a multimillion dollar renovation of the school's physical plant. During the same time, the school's fiscal deficit has been eliminated and financial flexibility has been achieved. Since the fall of 1989, enrollment has increased by ten percent and new academic programs have been added.

Dr. Sutton was educated at Dillard University in New Orleans, he went on to receive his master and doctoral degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Sutton began to advance his administrative career from instructor to full professor and Chair of the Division of Natural Sciences at Dillard in 1979. He left there to serve as Academic Vice President, Provost and Professor of Biology at Chicago State University from 1979 to 1985. In 1985, Dr. Sutton was named Vice President for Educational and Student Services at Kansas State University before assuming the Presidency at Mississippi Valley State University.

Dr. Sutton has been very active in the community serving on a variety of civic and educational boards in New Orleans, Chicago, Manhattan, and Kansas. He is an active member of the Greenwood-Lefflore Chamber of Commerce, the Greenwood-Lefflore-Carroll County Economic Development Foundation, and the Greenwood Rotary Club. He serves on the Advisory Board of Deposit Guaranty National Bank in Greenwood, Mississippi, and the Professional Advisory Committee of Mid Delta Home Health, Inc. He is a member of the Board of Governors of Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters and the Board of Directors of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sutton has been a catalyst for change and growth in higher education in Mississippi. His knowledge and expertise will be truly missed and always appreciated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, I missed roll call votes number 87, 88, and 89 on Tuesday March 31, 1998, due to the memorial service that was held in Jonesboro, Arkansas for the victims and survivors of last week's tragic shooting.

Had I been present, I would have voted: "Yes" on roll call vote number 87; I would

have voted "No" on roll call vote number 88; and, I would have voted "Present" on roll call vote number 89.

I request that this be included in the RECORD immediately following these votes.

HONORING MAYOR CARL J. MATT

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carl J. Matt, Mayor of Jeannette, Pennsylvania. Mayor Matt has been a public servant of the residents of Jeannette for over 41 years and will continue to serve them in the future.

Carl J. Matt joined the Jeannette Police Department in 1956 and served the community for the next 41 years. Nine of those years were spent as the Chief of Police. During his years in law enforcement, Carl Matt worked under 12 different mayors of Jeannette. He saw both the successes and the failures of these mayors. Eventually Carl Matt decided to run for mayor himself and won.

As mayor, Carl Matt vows to return to the days when all citizens of Jeannette worked together with the government to accomplish their goals. Another goal of Mayor Matt is to make himself readily available to his constituents at all times. As a police officer, he always kept his phone number listed and hopes to do the same as mayor.

Mayor Carl Matt has always been a tireless public servant and a pillar in the community. Through his efforts, the citizens of Jeannette are able to build for the future. I ask my colleagues to rise and pay tribute to Mayor Matt. His history of service to Jeannette is unparalleled.

WOMEN OF CONGRESS' MEMORIAL
WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you a historic event I convened yesterday so that my colleagues and I could celebrate Women's History Month. I would like to share with you my remarks at the first Women of Congress' Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery:

Good afternoon, I'd like to thank my friends and colleagues Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR, Congresswoman BARBARA KENNELLY, Congresswoman TILLIE FOWLER, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE and Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN for being here at the Women of Congress' Memorial Wreath-Laying Ceremony. We have come today to honor the brave women who served in our Armed Services and to recognize their outstanding service to this country and the ultimate sacrifice that was made to enable us to have the freedom we so much enjoy as a country. It seems fitting that we pay homage to them during Women's History Month and to salute them for their contributions as patriots of this great nation. So we have come to this shrine that was built as a lasting memorial of their service, bravery

and sacrifice during military conflicts dating back to the founding of America. Without the heroic efforts of American service women, we would not be here today.

Women In Military Service for America Memorial was dedicated on October 18, 1997. This is the first major, national Memorial honoring all military women of all eras, past, present and future.

Women have served in all of America's major conflicts. Beginning with the American Revolution—when some women disguised themselves as men to join the Continental Army.

In the wars of the 18th and 19th centuries and during the Civil War women were hired to provide medical care, forage for supplies, cook, make clothing, engage in sabotage, scout and serve as couriers. Dr. Mary Walker, an Army physician who served during the Civil War, was the first and only woman awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for her work in treating patients.

Women were first recruited as members of the armed services in World War I. With more than 35,000 women having served in roles ranging from nurses to telephone operators. It was the first war in which American women served overseas.

More than 350,000 women served in World War II, which included the first female officers. More than 200 military women of the Women's Army Corps and Women Air Force Service Pilots died in action overseas or ferrying aircraft; and 88 were held as prisoners of war.

In the Gulf War (July 2, 1990 to April 6, 1991), women accounted for 35,000 of the 540,000 U.S. troops. Although they were not assigned to combat by law, these women ferried fuel, food and troops into combat areas. Two women were taken prisoner and 11 died.

The Number of Women Who Served in U.S.

Military Conflicts are:

Persian Gulf—41,000

Panama—770

Grenada—170

Vietnam—7,500

Korea—48,000

World War II—350,000

World War I—35,000

Spanish-American War—1,500

As we lay this wreath, may it symbolize the appreciation we have for the courageous servicewomen who dedicated their lives for their country.

We appreciate the service and the lives of these noble women. May they always be remembered for their bravery.

MERCY HOSPITAL's 100TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Mercy is celebrating its centennial with a mass and a reception on April 19, 1998. I am proud to have been asked to participate in this milestone event.

Founded by Mother Catherine McAuley in Ireland in 1831, the Sisters of Mercy nursed the poor in Irish slums plagued by cholera. They marched with Florence Nightingale to Crimea and to Constantinople to tend to the

wounded. In America, the Sisters served in the Civil War nursing wounded on both sides of the conflict.

In March 1898, the six original Sisters of Mercy, or the "Hospital Sisters" as they were known, opened the doors of the original Mercy Hospital, in the former Haines House on Hanover Street in Wilkes-Barre. Before the end of that summer, the hospital provided care for seventeen wounded veterans of the Spanish-American War.

The Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre flourished immediately, tending to the region's injured coal miners. Donations to support their effort poured in; wealthy individuals donated fuel and money and the poor shared their food with the Sisters. Only the coal companies failed to offer support, refusing to even offer a discount on coal for heat.

Mr. Speaker, over the last hundred years Mercy Hospital has suffered the wrath of nature several times. In the Flood of 1936, the Hospital was almost destroyed. Again in 1972, when Hurricane Agnes caused the Susquehanna River to inundate the Wyoming Valley, the hospital sustained six million dollars of damage. In 1996, the hospital was forced to evacuate once again as the Susquehanna reached flood stage.

Undaunted by economic hard times, changes in health care, nature's wrath, and the staggering growth in new technology, Mercy Hospital has not only survived but grown into a state-of-the-art facility. Expanding and providing services that no other local health facility has undertaken. From the McAuley House, a shelter for women and children, to a special and innovative clinic for expectant mothers, Mercy Hospital has contributed to the community for 100 years. The state-of-the-art hospital of today owes its success to the vision and perseverance of a handful of dedicated Sisters.

I am extremely pleased to join with the community in thanking Mercy Hospital for its dedication and service and send my very best wishes for continued prosperity.

REGARDING IRAN

HON. BOB NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 1998, the Iranian government was quoted in considering the proposal to set up an American office at the Swiss embassy. The office would be held by an official from the U.S. Information Agency. In light of this possible ease of tension between the U.S. and Iran, I would like to submit an article from the Middle East Insight regarding the Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and the United States.

IRAN: THE INADEQUACY OF LABELS

(By George A. Nader)

This past December, I had the opportunity to attend and observe first-hand the 52-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Tehran. The summit clearly demonstrated both the failure of U.S. efforts to isolate Iran and the emergence of a strong and popular political leader. Iranian President Mohammad Khatami has not only emerged as a significant force within his own country but has inherited the leadership of

the OIC—which represents the world's 1.2 billion Muslims—for the next three years. This is another indication that Iran—whether the United States is ready for it or not—has positioned itself as a leader of the Islamic world into the new millennium.

The election of President Khatami in May 1997 was facilitated by a 70-percent landslide comprised in large part of the middle class, women, and young voters (half of Iran's 60-million population were not even born at the time of the Shah's overthrow in 1979). Notably, among Khatami's supporters was the group that took over the U.S. Embassy in November 1979 and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

One dramatic change clearly evident at the OIC summit was the absence of the old banners touting "Death to America". Instead, foreign visitors were warmly welcomed. When Iranians became aware that I had come from the United States to observe the summit, they responded positively and with great enthusiasm. Though some of the old rhetoric remains, it is fading, and few among the population take it seriously.

Unfortunately, the dialogue among Western media analysts, political pundits and other so-called experts—both preceding and following the OIC summit—regarding the new status of President Khatami has been simplistic and misleading. The notion that we are currently witnessing a 'struggle for the soul of Iran' or that 'moderates and conservatives' are battling for supremacy in Iranian political circles fails to recognize the complex interplay between various personalities and factions within Iranian society. The question posed in the West of whether the moderates or radicals are now on top assumes a paradigm of political dynamics in Iran which is simply false. Iranian political culture today is more subtle, multi-faceted and intricately interwoven than many seem to realize. When asked in a January 6, 1998, CNN interview about the supposed factions in Iran, President Khatami responded that "terms such as conservative, moderate and the like are more often meaningful in the West."

Khatami enjoys the full blessing of both Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and former President Hashemi Rafsanjani. All three get along well, and their congenial relationship was obvious during the OIC summit. Both Khatami and Khamenei are clerics and descendants of the Prophet, and wish to strengthen the country's Islamic system of government. Their respective families are close. In fact, as a religious student in Mashad, Khamenei became a disciple of Khatami's father who was a highly respected ayatollah. Similarly, both Khatami and Khamenei are products of Iranian society and were educated exclusively in Iran; Khatami studied religion in Qom and philosophy in Isfahan.

President Khatami's perceived overtures to the United States have been mistakenly contrasted with comments by Khamenei. Khatami has prompted much speculation concerning Iranian relations with the United States during both his December press conference after the OIC summit in which he referred to a "thoughtful dialogue with the American people" and his January 6 CNN interview in which he called for cultural exchanges between the two countries. After his December press conference, Khamenei—who has opposed any improvement in U.S.-Iranian bilateral relations—expressed satisfaction with Khatami's address.

When Khatami says he wants dialogue with the United States, he means with the American people and not the government. When Khamenei says that America is bad, he means the government and not the people. We in the West are looking for dichotomy

and division. But both Khatami and Khamenei have said that none of their comments contradicts the other's. Khatami proposes cultural exchange as a means of building bridges between civilizations, but has ruled out—at least for now—any direct dialogue with the U.S. government and stated that there is no need for political ties. Equally important, Khatami has never called into question the core belief of the Iranian political system that the supreme spiritual leader should be selected by a group of clerics—and not "elected by the people"—to be the representative of God in the temporal order.

The Islamic Revolution has reached an advanced phase in its development. In this stage, much consideration is being given to defining Iran's relationship with the Arab world and the West. This is a new beginning for Iran and thus it may not be very helpful to take its ideological pulse too quickly or frequently. It may also be helpful to remember that, while the Islamic Revolution dates back only 19 years, its Persian underpinnings stretch back to the dawn of civilization.

In 1992, in an earlier stage of the Revolution, Khatami was driven from his position as minister of culture because he relaxed press and media censorship rules. In 1997, these same forces supported his candidacy for president. Khatami's agenda did not change in the intervening years, but the Islamic Revolution did progress. This is also demonstrated by the fact that his entire government was endorsed by the Islamic establishment—a virtually unprecedented phenomenon. Iran's revolution has moved into a more advanced stage, with multiple forces coexisting within a common framework.

Acknowledging this reality is important for the opening of a dialogue between the United States and Iran. If Washington is sincere in its desire to open up lines of communication, then the Clinton administration must reach out to the whole political spectrum in Iran and not just to specific elements. This may be a slow and excruciatingly deliberate process, but in the end it is the only one that can bear fruit.

There are two things Washington can do to move this process forward. First, it can tone down its belligerent rhetoric (as President Clinton has recently begun to do); harsh rhetoric only tends to alienate. In addition, the United States should revisit the issue of frozen Iranian assets seized after the 1979 American Embassy takeover. This may make it easier for the Iranians to address U.S. concerns regarding weapons of mass destruction and support for international terrorism.

The United States may be the only remaining superpower, but it still must be very careful when dealing with Iran. Western ideological paradigms, on which we rely so heavily to understand political dynamics overseas, are predated by 4,000 years of Persian culture. The application of superficial political labels will neither illuminate nor elucidate Iran's complex decision-making matrix.

CHILD SURVIVAL, TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL AND MICROCREDIT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit my testimony which I presented this week at the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs into the RECORD of the House of Representatives.